

Amendment(s) to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement Abstract:

A compact backlight system has a light-emitting panel (1) with a front wall (2), a rear wall (3) situated opposite thereto, ~~and furthermore, between the front and the rear wall (2, 3),~~ a first edge surface (4) and, opposite thereto, a second edge surface (5). A first light source (6) is associated with the first edge surface (4) which is light-transmitting. ~~According to the invention, t~~The light-emitting panel (1) widens over a widening section (100) from the first edge surface (4) in a direction towards the second edge surface (5), and the rear wall (3) is provided over the widening section (100) with a multiplicity of steps (13, 13', ...) ~~of which each~~ each having a surface (17) facing the front wall (2) which is substantially parallel to the front wall (2). ~~Preferably, the ratio of the surface area  $S_1$  of the first edge surface (4) and the surface area  $S_2$  of the second edge surface (5) ranges from~~  
 ~~$1.5 < S_2/S_1 < 3$ .~~

~~Fig. 1~~